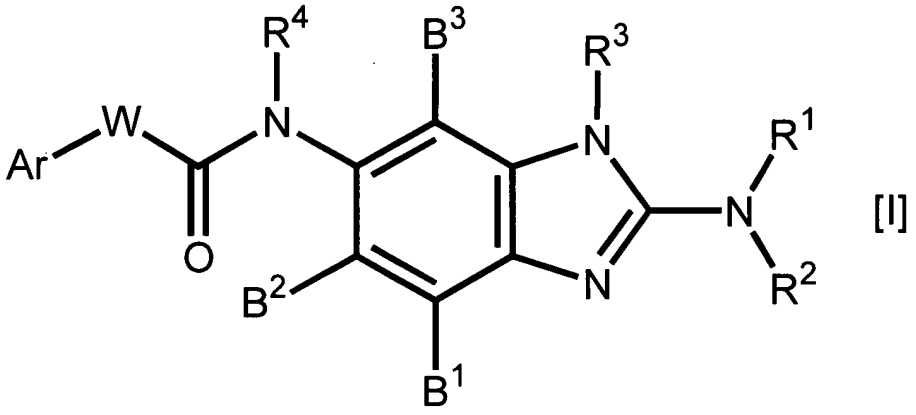
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** An antagonist to melanin-concentrating hormone receptor comprising as the active ingredient a benzimidazole derivative represented by the following ~~general~~ formula [I]



[I]

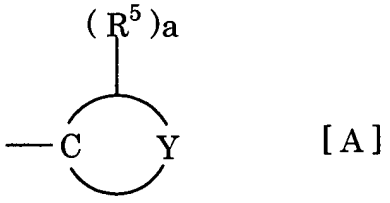
~~[in which~~wherein:

B^1, B^2 and B^3 are same or different and each stands for hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl or lower alkyloxy;

R^1 and R^2 are same or different and each stands for

~~3)~~1) hydrogen,

~~4)~~2) a 3 – 10 membered aliphatic ring group of the formula [A]



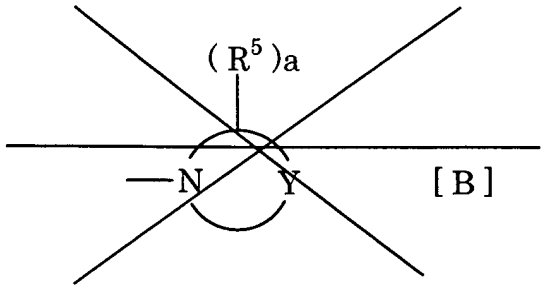
[A]

~~(in which~~wherein R^5 either stands for a substituent selected from ~~the~~ later specified Group α, or two R^5's together form oxo group; Y stands for ~~-CH-~~ $-CH_2-$, $-NR^6-$ or ~~-O-~~ -O-; R^6 ~~standing~~ stands for a substituent selected from ~~a~~ the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally fluorine-substituted lower alkyl, lower alkylcarbonyl, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, carbamoyl, mono-lower alkylcarbamoyl and di-lower alkylcarbamoyl; and a is an

integer of 0 – ~~4)~~4, or

3) a lower alkyl group which optionally has substituent(s) selected from Group α ~~given later~~ or a 3 – 10 membered aliphatic ring group represented by the formula [A], ~~or~~

~~R^1 and R^2 together form, with the nitrogen atom to which they bind, a 3 – 10 membered aliphatic, nitrogen-containing heterocycle of the formula [B]~~



~~(in which R^5, Y and a are same as previously defined),~~

provided R^1 and R^2 are not hydrogen atoms at the same ~~time,~~time;

R^3 stands for hydrogen or a lower alkyl which optionally has substituents selected from Group α;~~Group α,~~

R^4 stands for hydrogen or a lower alkyl;~~alkyl,~~

W is a divalent group ~~and~~ which stands for

~~1) linker,~~

~~2)~~ optionally substituted mono- or bi-cyclic, 3 – 8 membered aromatic ~~or aliphatic~~ heterocycle~~,~~; and

~~3) mono- or bi-cyclic, 3 – 8 membered aromatic or aliphatic carbocycle, or~~

~~4) C_2 – C_4 alkylene or alkenylene, whose carbon atom(s) in the main chain being optionally substituted with oxygen atom(s);~~

Ar stands for mono- or bi-cyclic, aromatic carbocycle ~~or aromatic heterocycle~~, optionally having one, two or more substitutents selected from Group β;

~~[Group α]~~

wherein Group α comprises halogen, hydroxyl, amino, mono-lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, optionally fluorine-substituted lower alkyloxy, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, (lower alkyloxycarbonyl)amino, (lower alkyloxycarbonyl)lower alkylamino, lower alkylcarbonyl, lower

alkylcarbonyloxy, (lower alkylcarbonyl)amino, (lower alkylcarbonyl) lower alkylamino, carbamoyl, mono-lower alkylcarbamoyl, di-lower alkylcarbamoyl, carbamoylamino, mono-lower alkylcarbamoylamino, di-lower alkylcarbamoylamino, (mono-lower alkylcarbamoyl)lower alkylamino, (di-lower alkylcarbamoyl)lower alkylamino, carbamoyloxy, mono-lower alkylcarbamoyloxy, di-lower alkylcarbamoyloxy, lower alkylsulfonyl, lower alkylsulfonylamino, sulfamoyl, mono-lower alkylsulfamoyl, di-lower alkylsulfamoyl, sulfamoylamino, (mono-lower alkylsulfamoyl)amino, (di-lower alkylsulfamoyl)amino, (mono-lower alkylsufamoyl)lower alkylamino and (di-lower alkylsulfamoyl)lower alkylamino;~~alkylamino.~~

~~[Group β]~~

wherein Group β comprises halogen, hydroxyl, amino, cyano, mono-lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, optionally fluorine-substituted lower alkyl, optionally fluorine-substituted lower alkyloxy, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, (lower alkyloxycarbonyl)amino, (lower alkyloxycarbonyl)lower alkylamino, carboxyl, lower alkylcarbonyl, lower alkylcarbonyloxy, (lower alkylcarbonyl) amino, (lower alkylcarbonyl)lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylcarbamoyl, di-lower alkylcarbamoylamino, (di-lower alkylcarbamoyl)lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylcarbamoyloxy, lower alkylsulfonyl, lower alkylsufonylamino, di-lower alkylsulfamoyl, sulfamoylamino, (di-lower alkylsulfamoyl)amino, (di-lower alkylsulfamoyl)lower alkylamino, and 5 – 6 membered aliphatic carbocycle or heterocycle which is optionally substituted with a group selected from group γ; and

~~[Group γ]~~

wherein Group γ comprises ~~Lower~~ lower alkylcarbonyl, lower alkylsulfonyl and lower alkyloxycarbonyl;~~alkyloxycarbonyl]~~

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. **(Currently amended)** ~~An~~ The antagonist to melanin-concentrating hormone receptor as described in Claim 1, ~~in which~~wherein R^1 is methyl.

3. **(Currently amended)** ~~An~~ The antagonist to melanin-concentrating hormone receptor as described in Claim 2, ~~in which~~wherein R^2 is selected ~~form~~ from the group consisting of

isopropyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, N-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl, N-acetylpyrrolidin-3-yl, N-methylpiperidin- 4-yl, tetrahydrofuran-2-yl, 1-methanesulfonylpyrrolidin-3-yl and 1-(isopropylcarbonyl)pyrrolidin-3-yl.

4. **(Currently amended)** ~~An~~ The antagonist to melanin-concentrating hormone receptor as described in Claim 1, ~~in which~~wherein all of B^1, B^2 and B^3 are hydrogen atoms.

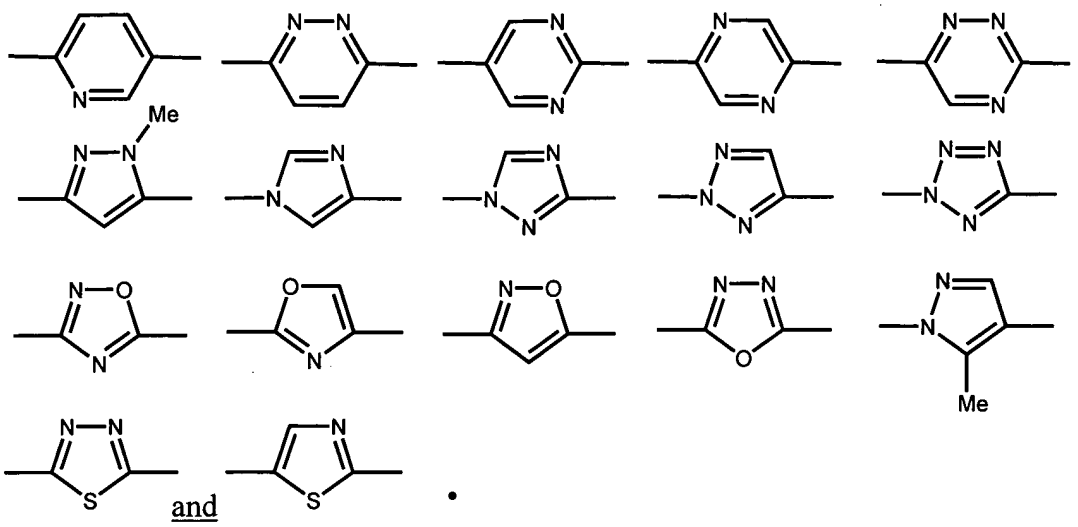
5. **(Currently amended)** ~~An~~ The antagonist to melanin-concentrating hormone receptor as described in Claim 1, ~~in which~~wherein R^3 is hydrogen or methyl.

6. **(Currently amended)** ~~An~~ The antagonist to melanin-concentrating hormone receptor as described in Claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein R^4 is hydrogen or methyl.

7. **(Cancelled)**

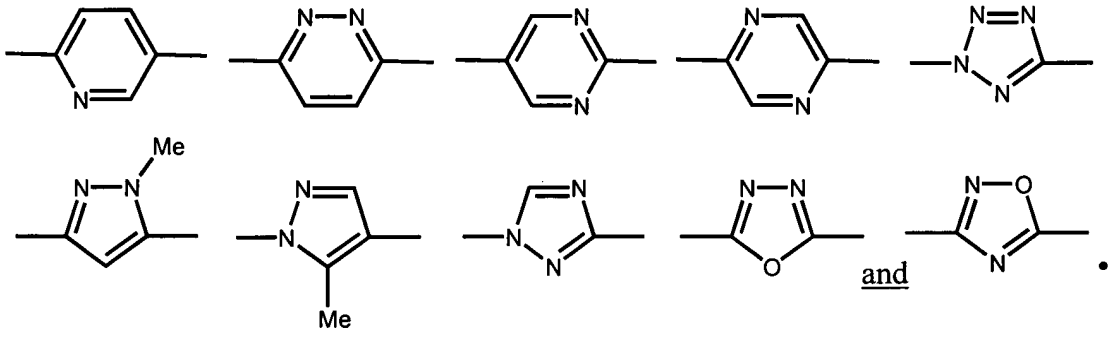
8. **(Currently amended)** ~~An~~ The antagonist to melanin-concentrating hormone receptor as described in ~~Claim 7~~Claim 1, ~~in which~~wherein W is ~~a~~ an optionally substituted mono- or bi-cyclic, 3-8 membered aromatic nitrogen-containing heterocycle.

9. **(Currently amended)** ~~An~~ The antagonist to melanin-concentrating hormone receptor as described in Claim 8, ~~in which~~wherein W is selected from the group consisting of the following substituents:



and

10. **(Currently amended)** ~~An~~ The antagonist to melanin-concentrating hormone receptor as described in Claim 8, ~~in which~~wherein W is selected from the group consisting of the following substituents:

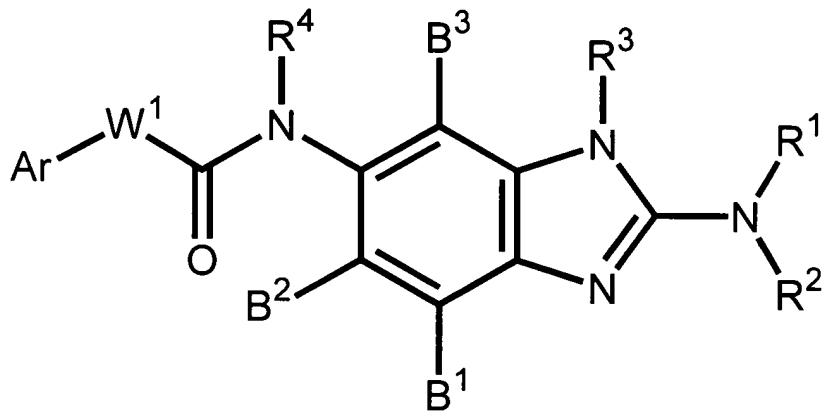


and

11. **(Currently amended)** ~~An~~ The antagonist to melanin-concentrating hormone receptor as described in Claim 1, ~~in which~~wherein Ar is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, 2-fluorophenyl, 3-fluorophenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 2-trifluoromethylphenyl, 3-trifluoromethylphenyl, 4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 4-methanesulphonylphenyl, 3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl, 3,4-difluorophenyl, 2,4-difluorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 4-(piperidin-1-yl)phenyl~~,~~ and 4-(morpholin-1-yl)phenyl~~, 2-fluoropyridin-5-yl, 3-fluoropyridin-6-yl, 2-methoxypyridin-5-yl, 2-methoxypyridin-6-yl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 2-pyridinyl, (2-trifluoromethyl)-5-pyridinyl, (3-trifluoromethyl)-6-pyridinyl, 2-pyrazinyl and 3-pyridazinyl~~.

12-13. **(Cancelled)**

14. **(Currently amended)** ~~Compounds~~ A compound represented by a ~~general~~ formula [I-1]



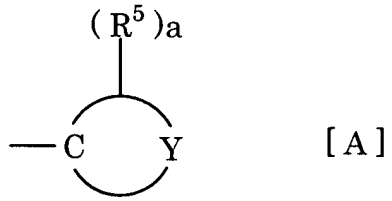
wherein:

B^1, B^2 and B^3 are same or different and each stands for hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl or lower alkyloxy;

R^1 and R^2 are same or different and each stands for

1) hydrogen,

2) a 3 – 10 membered aliphatic ring group of the formula [A]



[A]

wherein R^5 either stands for a substituent selected from later specified Group α, or two R^5's together form oxo group; Y stands for $-CH_2-$, $-NR^6-$ or -O-; R^6 stands for a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally fluorine-substituted lower alkyl, lower alkylcarbonyl, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, carbamoyl, mono-lower alkylcarbamoyl and di-lower alkylcarbamoyl; and a is an integer of 0 – 4, or

3) a lower alkyl group which optionally has substituent(s) selected from Group α or a 3 – 10 membered aliphatic ring group represented by the formula [A],

provided R^1 and R^2 are not hydrogen atoms at the same time;

R^3 stands for hydrogen or a lower alkyl which optionally has substituents selected from Group α;

R^4 stands for hydrogen or a lower alkyl;

W^1 is a divalent group which stands for optionally substituted mono- or bi-cyclic, 3 – 8 membered aromatic or aromatic heterocycle; and

Ar stands for, mono- or bi-cyclic, aromatic carbocycle, optionally having one, two or more substitutents selected from Group β;

wherein Group α comprises halogen, hydroxyl, amino, mono-lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, optionally fluorine-substituted lower alkyloxy, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, (lower alkyloxycarbonyl)amino, (lower alkyloxycarbonyl)lower alkylamino, lower alkylcarbonyl, lower alkylcarbonyloxy, (lower alkylcarbonyl)amino, (lower alkylcarbonyl) lower alkylamino, carbamoyl, mono-lower alkylcarbamoyl, di-lower alkylcarbamoyl, carbamoylamino, mono-lower alkylcarbamoylamino, di-lower alkylcarbamoylamino, (mono-lower alkylcarbamoyl)lower alkylamino, (di-lower alkylcarbamoyl)lower alkylamino, carbamoyloxy, mono-lower alkylcarbamoyloxy, di-lower alkylcarbamoyloxy, lower alkylsulfonyl, lower alkylsulfonylamino, sulfamoyl, mono-lower alkylsulfamoyl, di-lower alkylsulfamoyl, sulfamoylamino, (mono-lower alkylsulfamoyl)amino, (di-lower alkylsulfamoyl)amino, (mono-lower alkylsufamoyl)lower alkylamino and (di-lower alkylsulfamoyl)lower alkylamino;

wherein Group β comprises halogen, hydroxyl, amino, cyano, mono-lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, optionally fluorine-substituted lower alkyl, optionally fluorine-substituted lower alkyloxy, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, (lower alkyloxycarbonyl)amino, (lower alkyloxycarbonyl)lower alkylamino, carboxyl, lower alkylcarbonyl, lower alkylcarbonyloxy, (lower alkylcarbonyl) amino, (lower alkylcarbonyl)lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylcarbamoyl, di-lower alkylcarbamoylamino, (di-lower alkylcarbamoyl)lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylcarbamoyloxy, lower alkylsulfonyl, lower alkylsufonylamino, di-lower alkylsulfamoyl, sulfamoylamino, (di-lower alkylsulfamoyl)amino, (di-lower alkylsulfamoyl)lower alkylamino, and 5 – 6 membered aliphatic carbocycle or heterocycle which is optionally substituted with a group selected from group γ; and

wherein Group γ comprises lower alkylcarbonyl, lower alkylsulfonyl and lower alkyloxycarbonyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

~~[in which~~

~~W^1 is a divalent group which stands for~~

~~1) linker,~~

~~2) mono- or bi-cyclic, 3 – 8 membered aromatic or aliphatic heterocycle,~~

~~3) mono- or bi-cycle, 3 – 8 membered aliphatic carbocycle, or~~

~~4) C_2 – C_4 alkylene or alkenylene, whose carbon atom(s) being optionally substituted with oxygen atom(s);~~

~~B^1, B^2, B^3, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and Ar are same as those defined in Claim 1]~~

~~or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.~~

15. **(Currently amended)** ~~A~~ The compound of Claim 14, ~~in which~~wherein R^1 is methyl.

16. **(Currently amended)** ~~A~~ The compound of Claim 15, ~~in which~~wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, N-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl, N-acetylpyrrolidin-3-yl, N-methylpiperidin- 4-yl, tetrahydrofuran-2-yl, 1-methanesulfonyl- pyrrolidin-3-yl and 1-(isopropylcarbonyl)pyrrolidin-3-yl.

17. **(Currently amended)** ~~A~~ The compound of Claim 14, ~~in which~~wherein all of B^1, B^2, and B^3 are hydrogen atoms.

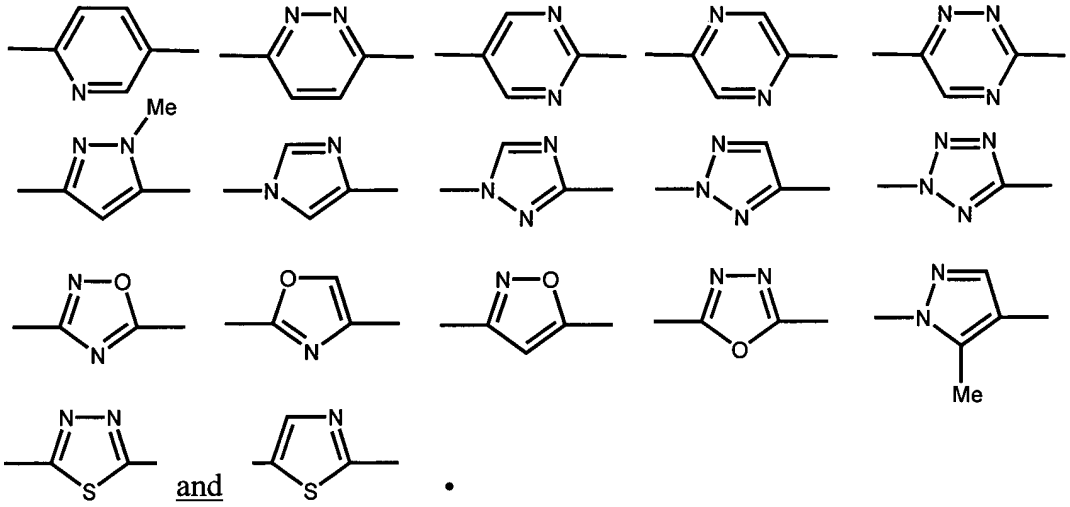
18. **(Currently amended)** ~~A~~ The compound of Claim 14, ~~in which~~wherein R^3 is hydrogen or methyl.

19. **(Currently amended)** ~~A~~ The compound of Claim 14, ~~in which~~wherein R^4 is hydrogen or methyl.

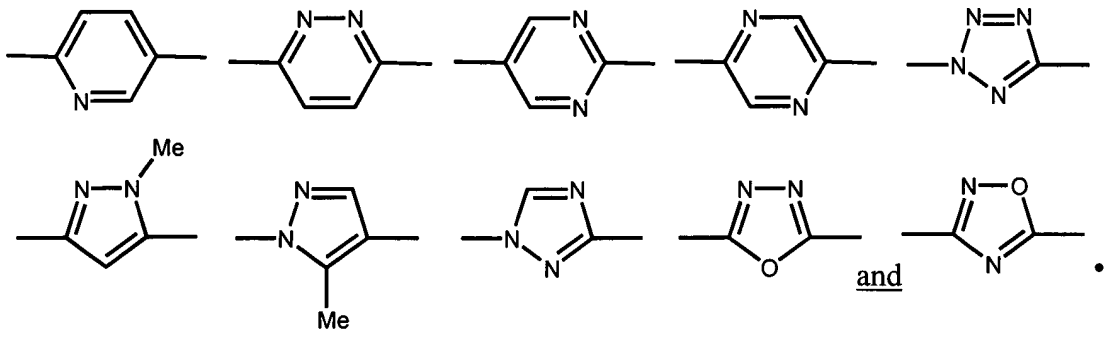
20. **(Cancelled)**

21. **(Currently amended)** ~~A~~ The compound of ~~Claim 20~~Claim 14, ~~in which~~wherein W^1 is ~~a~~ an optionally substituted mono- or bi-cyclic, 3 – 8 membered aromatic nitrogen-containing heterocycle.

22. **(Currently amended)** ~~A~~ The compound of Claim 21, ~~in which~~wherein W^1 is selected from the group consisting of the following substitutents:



23. **(Currently amended)** ~~A~~ The compound of Claim 21, ~~in which~~wherein W^1 is selected from the group consisting of the following substituents:



24. **(Currently amended)** ~~A~~ The compound of Claim 14, ~~in which~~wherein Ar is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, 2-fluorophenyl, 3-fluorophenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 2-

trifluoromethylphenyl, 3-trifluoromethylphenyl, 4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 4-methanesulphonylphenyl, 3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl, 3,4-difluorophenyl, 2,4-difluorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 4-(piperidin-1-yl)phenyl~~,~~ and 4-(morpholin-1-yl)phenyl~~, 2-fluoropyridin-5-yl, 3-fluoropyridin-6-yl, 2-methoxypyridin-5-yl, 2-methoxypyridin-6-yl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 2-pyridinyl, (2-trifluoromethyl) 5-pyridinyl, (3-trifluoromethyl) 6-pyridinyl, 2-pyrazinyl and 3-pyridazinyl~~.

25. **(Currently amended)** ~~A~~ The compound of Claim 14, ~~in which~~wherein said compound ~~represented by the general formula [I-1]~~ is

•5-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H- benzimidazol-6-yl}-2-pyridinecarboxamide,

•5-(4-fluorophenyl)- ~~5-(4-flurophenyl)-~~N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}-2-pyrazinecarboxamide,

•N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}-N- methyl-5-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole-3-carboxamide,

•3-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H- benzimidazol-6-yl}-1,2,4-oxadiazole-5-carboxamide,

•6-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H- benzimidazol-6-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxamide,

•N-{2-[1-acetyl-3-pyrrolidinyl(methyl)amino]-1-benzimidazol-6-yl}-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-pyridinecarboxamide,

•N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}-5- phenyl-2-pyrazinecarboxamide,

•N-{2-[1-acetyl-3-pyrrolidinyl(methyl)amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-pyrazinecarboxamide,

•5-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H- benzimidazol-6-yl}-2-pyrimidinecarboxamide,

•6-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H- benzimidazol-6-yl}-3-pyridazinecarboxamide,

•2-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H- benzimidazol-6-yl}-5-

pyrimidinecarboxamide,

•N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}-3-[4- (trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1,2,4-oxadiazole-5-carboxamide,

•N-{2-[isopropyl[(methyl)amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}-1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1,2,4-triazole-3-carboxamide,

•N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}-5-[4- (trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1,3,4-oxadiazole-2-carboxamide,

•N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}-5- methyl-1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxamide,

•N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}-2-[4- (trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-2H-tetrazole-2-carboxamide,

•6-(3-fluorophenyl)-N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H- benzimidazol-6-yl}-3-pyridinecarboxamide,

•N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}-5- phenyl-5-pyrimidinecarboxamide,

•5-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1-methyl- 1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}-2-pyrimidinecarboxamide, or

•N-{2-[isopropyl(methyl)amino]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}-5- phenyl-3-pyridinecarboxamide.

26. **(Currently amended)** ~~Medical~~ A medical ~~compositions~~ composition comprising the ~~compounds~~ compound as described in Claim 14 and a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~carriers~~carrier.

27. **(Cancelled)**